INFORMATION LETTER

Not for Publication — NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION — For Members Only

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Ceiling price increases have been granted by the Office of Price Administration on canned tuna, effective August 23. The new ceilings are specified in Amendment 6 to MPR 299. The Association on Friday bulletined the new price schedules to member canners.

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In granting an increase of $8 a ton to California pilchard fishermen, effective August 20, the Office of Price Administration announced that no change would be made in ceilings for canned pilchards. However, if the action results in financial hardship for canners, OPA stated they could apply for an adjustment in their ceilings. The new ceiling of $30 a ton for the pilchard catch also was made applicable to Oregon and Washington. OPA said the increase was granted to give California fishermen returns on their pilchard catch equivalent to the returns experienced in 1944. The action was taken in Amendment 20 to Maximum Price Regulation 579.

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Maximum prices will be reimposed on slaughtering meat canners on September 1 and on non-slaughtering meat canners on September 5, according to the schedule of dates the Office of Price Administration announces for the reimposition of ceilings on foods ordered recontrolled.

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The Federal Register of August 23 publishes a correction to Supplement 19. The correction applies to the method used by a canner in figuring his ceilings under Pricing Method 2 if he takes the median prices named in Paragraph 6 (f). The method of computing the labor increase is clarified by changing Paragraph 6 (f) (3) to read "in Paragraph (a) (7) above" instead of "Paragraph (2) above."

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Minimum car requirements necessary to move empty cans to California canneries were assured following inter-governmental agency meetings early this past week. The Association has been advised that the Office of Defense Transportation agreed to and proceeded to take informal action to make relief from the serious box car shortage effective on the Coast by the end of this week.

Pattern of Decontrol

As was widely reported in the press, the Price Decontrol Board on August 20 directed continued decontrol of dairy products and almost all grains while ordering recontrol of meats, soybeans, cottonseed products, flaxseed and by-product grain feeds.

Four criteria are required to be used by the Decontrol Board in making its decisions. They are: (1) an unreasonable advance in prices over the June 30 level plus subsidies; (2) the size of the supply of the commodity; (3) is a price regulation practicable and enforceable?; (4) is such price regulation in the public interest?

The action of the Decontrol Board in recontrolling meats but decontrolling grains and dairy products is being studied by those seeking to find in it a pattern for decontrol of other food products, including canned fruits and vegetables. Decontrol of the latter has been petitioned by the Canned Fruits and Vegetables Industry Advisory Committee, as was reported in the August 10 INFORMATION LETTER.

Some General Policies Followed by Decontrol Board

A general policy of removing price controls wherever possible rather than retaining them as long as possible appears to be indicated in the Board's action.

The Decontrol Board rendered decisions on the assumption that Congress expected it would consider as a single commodity each group listed in the statute. For example, dairy products were considered on a unit basis rather than by the separate products—milk, butter, cheese, ice cream, etc. Grains also were considered as a whole, rather than as separate products—wheat, rye, corn, oats, feed oats, barley and grain sorghums. An exception was flaxseed, treated as a separate item because of special conditions.

Consistent Use Made of Price Criterion

Consistent in all its decisions was the Decontrol Board's consideration of the price criterion. In its August 20 announcement, the Board pointed out that in the case of each product which it ordered to be recontrolled, prices had risen unreasonably. In its decisions the Board was dealing exclusively with products that had not been under ceilings since June 30. Various price rises were cited by the Board to constitute unreasonable increases in terms of percentages, but no specific designation was made of the precise percentage of increase that would be considered unreasonable. The Board's statement indicates that the mere fact that current prices are above what the new ceiling would be, constitutes no bar to

continued decontrol. Milk was not recontrolled, although the Board's public statement shows that in *some cases* it considered the price increases unreasonable. The general level of prices for dairy products was found by the Board to have remained in the neighborhood of June 30 levels, plus subsidy, it was stated.

As to commodities now under price control, the decontrol decision might depend largely upon the question—what would prices be if ceilings are removed?

Coming to the supply criterion that figures in the Board's decision, the *anticipated* crop for the current season was considered in one case where production was not completed rather than waiting for final production results. The grain supply was found by the Board to adequately meet domestic and export requirements, and grains accordingly were not recontrolled, despite the fact that because of a short carry-in, the prospective supply is smaller than last year. The Board conceded some increase toward normal carry-over. Milk was not recontrolled, even though a supply short of demand was reported by the Board.

In the entire report of its decisions the Board presented few figures covering specific details of supply or requirements in support of its determination that a product was or was not in short supply.

On September 1, the Price Control Extension Act provides, the Secretary of Agriculture shall certify to the Price Administrator each agricultural commodity which he determines to be in short supply. Unless a commodity is so determined to be in short supply, no maximum price shall be applicable to that commodity. Thus, any canned fruits, vegetables, or seafoods now under price control but not listed on September 1 by the Secretary as in short supply, will automatically be exempt from control on that date.

Plum Standards Revised

Revised standards for grades of canned plums have been issued by the Standardization and Inspection Division, Fruit and Vegetable Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, Department of Agriculture and became effective August 15. The standards cover purple, green gage and yellow egg plum varieties.

PAPER PRICE ADJUSTMENT

New Amendment May Offer Some Aid in Solution of Canned Food Label Difficulties

On August 16, The Office of Price Administration issued Amendment 7 to Revised Maximum Price Regulation 451 adjusting the prices of many types of paper. The Statement of Considerations gives among others the following reasons for the adjustments:

"Manufacturers . . . have experienced substantial cost increases. . . .

"These cost increases have greatly increased pressure on the mills to discontinue unprofitable . . . items. . . .

"Increases . . . represent a price structure which will both encourage . . . production and maintain a proper balance among various types of paper."

It has been generally understood that the production of papers suitable for canned food labels has been seriously impeded by the relative price position at which such papers have been frozen by previous OPA regulations. The best information available from authoritative paper sources is that the new price amendment will loosen that situation. It is anticipated that label manufacturers will be able to secure larger paper supplies though it is not certain at this moment how soon increased supplies may be available.

Although label manufacturing authorities are unwilling to predict when and how much they may be able to increase label production as a result of this order, it would seem that some measure of relief will eventually occur.

The Association has been active in following and reporting the paper situation as it affects canned food labels.

Dried Fruits Decontrolled

With the exception of dried apples, all dried fruits were removed from price control by the Office of Price Administration on August 19. The decontrol action in the case of dried prunes and raisins was retroactive to July 28, the date on which subsidies on these two items were discontinued. The effective date for decontrol of the other dried fruits was August 19, and the action was taken in Amendment 47 to Supplementary Order 132.

On the same date the International Emergency Food Council announced that effective September 1, international allocation recommendations of all dried fruits would be discontinued. The dried fruits involved include dates, figs, apples, apricots, raisins and currants, peaches, pears and prunes.

Cranberry Production

Cranberry production for 1946 is forecast at 788,100 barrels by the Crop Reporting Board of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Prospects are favorable this year in all producing areas. The 1945 crop was 656,800 barrels and the 1935-44 average was 624,100 barrels. The following table presents the USDA estimate for 1946, along with comparison with 1945, by States:

State	1945 *Barrels*	1946 *Barrels*
Massachusetts	478,000	535,000
New Jersey	49,000	73,000
Wisconsin	82,000	120,000
Washington	36,400	46,200
Oregon	11,400	13,900
Five States	656,800	788,100

INDICATED PRODUCTION

Estimated Tonnage of Tomatoes, Corn and Snap Beans Computed by Agriculture Department

Last week's INFORMATION LETTER presented the Department of Agriculture's estimates of 1946 production of tomatoes, sweet corn and snap beans for processing, but the tables accompanying them, by error showed acreage figures instead of tonnage. Tonnage figures of these production estimates and comparison with 1945 are given below by States:

Sweet Corn for Processing

State	1945 revised *Tons*	1946 indicated *Tons*
Maine	30,200	37,400
New Hampshire	1,200	1,400
Vermont	1,800	2,800
New York	57,600	59,800
Pennsylvania	20,500	22,100
Ohio	46,700	47,300
Indiana	74,500	80,000
Illinois	163,500	194,400
Michigan	3,800	4,200
Wisconsin	223,600	280,800
Minnesota	181,200	202,500
Iowa	107,600	109,200
Nebraska	7,000	6,900
Delaware	7,400	6,300
Maryland	88,300	76,000
Virginia	1,500	1,100
Idaho	23,800	26,400
Utah	6,700	6,800
Washington	38,100	55,800
Oregon	20,500	29,000
Other States	17,700	20,500
U. S. Total	1,129,200	1,270,700

Tomatoes for Processing

State	1945 revised Tons	1946 indicated Tons
New York	157,200	224,000
New Jersey	150,800	218,400
Pennsylvania	152,500	227,900
Ohio	213,800	235,300
Indiana	486,700	588,000
Illinois	51,600	63,000
Michigan	38,300	43,600
Wisconsin	5,700	6,600
Iowa	13,300	15,600
Missouri	32,900	39,000
Delaware	39,900	36,000
Maryland	119,100	155,400
Virginia	98,600	88,400
South Carolina	6,800	8,000
Florida	8,100	8,100
Kentucky	7,000	9,000
Tennessee	4,200	9,000
Arkansas	30,200	46,400
Oklahoma	1,800	5,800
Texas	62,000	80,900
Colorado	30,400	30,700
Utah	54,800	67,500
California	906,000	963,600
Other States	16,700	24,600
U. S. Total	2,688,400	3,194,800

Snap Beans for Processing

Maine	5,400	6,600
New York	31,200	35,200
New Jersey	4,300	3,300
Pennsylvania	6,400	5,600
Indiana	800	500
Michigan	8,000	9,100
Wisconsin	14,800	15,000
Missouri	1,100	700
Delaware	2,200	2,000
Maryland	15,000	14,200
Virginia	6,100	4,600
North Carolina	3,000	2,600
South Carolina	5,300	4,200
Georgia	2,200	2,900
Florida	18,200	13,300
Tennessee	6,400	5,200
Mississippi	1,300	1,300
Arkansas	19,400	15,700
Louisiana	2,800	3,400
Oklahoma	5,000	6,200
Texas	14,400	12,800
Colorado	3,600	3,600
Utah	2,200	1,400
Washington	5,200	6,800
Oregon	26,800	27,300
California	5,900	4,500
Other States	3,000	2,800
U. S. Total	220,000	210,200

Fresh Fish Decontrol Extended

Effective August 16 the Office of Price Administration suspended fresh and frozen halibut from price control and extended for an indefinite period the decontrol of fresh and frozen fish and seafood on which the period of previous suspension would have expired on August 18. Items not included in the August 16 action comprise Pacific salmon, tuna and tuna-like fishes and North Atlantic sardines, alewives, sea herring and pilchards. This action was taken in Amendment No. 48 to Supplementary Order No. 132.

Forthcoming Meetings

October 10-12—Florida Canners Association, 15th Annual Meeting, Sheraton-Plaza Hotel, Daytona Beach, Fla.

October 17-19—National Association of Food Chains, 13th Annual Meeting, Drake Hotel, Chicago, Ill.

November 3-7—Super Market Institute, Annual Convention, Hotel Stevens, Chicago, Ill.

November 11-12—Wisconsin Canners Association, Schroeder Hotel, Milwaukee, Wis.

November 15—Ozark Canners Association, Fall Meeting, Colonial Hotel, Springfield, Mo.

November 21-22—Indiana Canners Association, Inc., Fall Meeting, Claypool Hotel, Indianapolis.

November 21-22—Pennsylvania Canners Association, 32nd Annual Meeting, The Yorktowne Hotel, York, Pa.

December 4-5—Tri-State Packers Association, Annual Fall Convention, Benjamin Franklin Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa.

December 6-7—Iowa-Nebraska Canners Association, Hotel Fort Des Moines, Des Moines, Iowa.

December 10-11—Ohio Canners' Association, Annual Convention, Deshler-Wallick Hotel, Columbus.

January 12-17, 1947—National Food Brokers Association, 42nd Annual Convention, Atlantic City, N. J.

January 19-24, 1947—National Canners Association, 40th Annual Convention, Atlantic City, N. J.

January 20-24, 1947—Canning Machinery & Supplies Association, Annual Exhibit and Meeting, Atlantic City, N. J.

January 20-23, 1947—National-American Wholesale Grocers Association, Annual Convention, Atlantic City, N. J.

February 6-7, 1947—Ozark Canners Association, 39th Annual Convention, Colonial Hotel, Springfield, Mo.

March 3-7, 1947—National Association of Frozen Food Packers, Annual Convention, San Francisco, Calif.

April 10-11, 1947—Tri-State Packers Association, Spring Convention, Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, Md.

Meat Enforcement Services

Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson announced August 22 that the enforcement of the Meat Inspection Act, the 28-Hour Law, and related general administrative functions will be returned to the Bureau of Animal Industry as of October 1, 1946. These activities are currently being carried out by the Production and Marketing Administration.

Alaska Salmon Pack Report

The following table, prepared from preliminary statistics, compiled by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, shows the pack of Alaska canned salmon, by regions and varieties, through August 10, 1946, as compared with a similar period in 1945. The figures for Western Alaska are final as of July 31, 1945 and 1946.

Districts	Aug. 10, 1946 Cases	Aug. 11, 1945 Cases
Western Alaska	694,464	704,553
Central Alaska	1,439,805	1,941,905
Southeastern Alaska	241,482	611,192
Total	2,375,751	3,257,650
Species		
King	31,611	37,015
Red	1,010,709	1,136,527
Pink	898,797	1,438,551
Chum	343,516	548,221
Coho	91,118	97,336
Total	2,375,751	3,257,650

Carry Visits Fish Canners

Charles R. Carry is on a tour of New England fish canneries, consulting with members regarding details of the program for the Association's canned fish and seafoods services, of which he was recently appointed director. His trip will keep him in the field through September 4 and will embrace visits to canneries at Portland, Lubec, Yarmouth, Belfast, West Pembroke, Eastport, and Jonesport, Me., and Boston and Gloucester, Mass.

Canned Poultry Statistics

The quantity of poultry canned or used in canning during June totaled 10,243,000 pounds, compared with 14,401,000 pounds in June, 1945. A total of 11,294,000 pounds was canned or used in canning in June 1944, and 3,321,000 pounds in June, 1943. Production in June this year consisted of 9,904,000 pounds of chicken and 339,000 pounds of turkey. The following table compares the pack by months and years:

	1944 Pounds	1945 Pounds	1946 Pounds
January	13,191,000	15,343,000	13,020,000
February	13,686,000	16,390,000	11,402,000
March	13,261,000	18,746,000	11,145,000
April	10,564,000	18,392,000	9,680,000
May	10,056,000	20,011,000	10,974,000
June	11,294,000	14,401,000	10,243,000
July	7,839,000	7,764,000	.....
August	6,701,000	8,034,000	.....
September	6,476,000	4,759,000	.....
October	10,432,000	5,815,000	.....
November	15,449,000	8,972,000	.....
December	12,852,000	7,960,000	.....
Total	131,801,000	146,587,000	66,464,000

Frozen Fruit and Vegetable Stocks Held in Cold Storage

Stocks of frozen fruits in cold storage on August 1, 1946, totaled 393,614,000 pounds as compared with 297,629,000 pounds on July 1, 1946, and 239,839,000 pounds on August 1, 1945, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Frozen vegetable stocks on August 1, 1946, amounted to 227,727,000 pounds as compared with 175,704,000 pounds on July 1, 1946, and 134,512,000 pounds on August 1, 1945. The following table furnishes details by commodities:

	Aug. 1, 1945	July 1, 1946	Aug. 1 1946
FROZEN FRUITS	*1,000 lbs.*	*1,000 lbs.*	*1,000 lbs.*
Apples	30,009	41,701	35,252
Blackberries	7,780	11,146	14,476
Cherries	27,056	12,562	63,493
Berries—Young, Logan, Boysen, etc.	10,382	6,678	14,258
Raspberries	16,875	7,903	22,323
Strawberries	39,197	65,140	70,174
Grapes	4,814	7,595	6,655
Plums and prunes	4,143	11,542	10,781
Peaches	14,132	38,606	36,111
Fruit juices and purees	19,416	20,646	21,828
Apricots	19,106	18,184	30,702
Blueberries	1,617	9,471	8,507
All other fruits	45,312	46,455	59,054
Total	239,839	297,629	393,614
FROZEN VEGETABLES			
Asparagus	12,327	20,269	22,914
Beans, lima	1,896	4,196	2,959
Beans, snap	3,781	7,615	8,999
Broccoli	2,442	14,298	12,867
Cauliflower	998	5,998	4,589
Corn, sweet	3,127	7,099	5,802
Peas, green	73,792	40,037	103,931
Spinach	13,444	26,505	26,610
Brussels sprouts	923	2,615	2,769
Pumpkin and squash	3,930	4,781	4,387
Baked beans	1,504	750	1,039
Vegetable purees	651	547	325
All other vegetables	15,697	41,894	30,536
Total	134,512	175,704	227,727

Minor Gets USDA Assignment

William A. Minor, Jr., has been assigned by Secretary of Agriculture Anderson to get preliminary work started under the new agricultural research bill authorizing appropriation of 9.5 million dollars for the present fiscal year which will end June 30, 1947. Representatives of land grant colleges, State agricultural agencies and others will be summoned to Washington soon to discuss the program.

The goal is to have a tentative program ready on paper by the time the new Congress meets in January or soon afterward, so that the Department will be in position to ask for appropriation of funds to carry it out.

School Lunch Program

The School Lunch Program will go into action this fall but on a new basis of permanency, according to the Department of Agriculture. Congress, in the School Lunch Act passed last spring, provided for continuing Federal aid. This permanent program for providing lunches that are nutritionally well-balanced now warrants arrangements for permanent equipment and lunch room space in the many schools where the year-to-year programs have convinced parents, teachers, and school authorities of the value of this service, states USDA.

The School Lunch Act provides a basis for allotment of the $75,000,000 of Federal funds available for support of the lunches this year. The number of children of school age and the per capita incomes in the State provide the basis for allotting the Federal fund. Payment to the States is on a "matching" arrangement, but this is modified by a "per capita income" provision. In general, the act calls for a "dollar for dollar" matching this year.

The Production and Marketing Administration manages the program for USDA and cooperates with State educational agencies designated by the State Governors this year. PMA can also make direct agreements with schools not included in the public school systems. The law forbids any discrimination or segregations as between pupils who pay and those who do not pay for their lunches.

June Rise in U. S. Exports

U. S. commercial exports, continuing to rise to new high levels, amounted to $684 million in June—$38 million above May, which was a 25-year high level. Total exports of all kinds were $878 million, an increase of $27 million over May. Of this total UNRRA and Lend-lease shipments amounted to $128 million. Value of exports for the first six months of 1946 was $4,772 million. Monthly average of exports for the first six months of 1946 was $586 million, compared with $285 millions for the same period of 1945.

Imports into the U. S. for June, 1946, were $385 million, a decrease of $12 million from the May level. General imports for the first six months of this year were $2,284 million, $162 million more than for the same period in 1945.

White Article Published

Henry A. White, president of the Hawaiian Pineapple Company, Ltd., and a past Director of the National Canners Association, is author of a feature article entitled "Application of Science to Food Production," which appears in the July issue of *Technology Review*.

The article presents the premise that the prerequisite to an early peace is the problem of supplying the people of all nations with foodstuffs sufficient to meet their needs and that any such short-range program must be supplemented by a long-range program in which our technical knowledge of food production is shared with other nations.

Mr. White's article outlines some of the many ways in which science and technology have increased food production and conserved much needed moisture and top soil through the use of new methods of fertilization, growth hormones, and contour farming.

Domestic Commerce Chief

Appointment of Horace B. McCoy as Director, Office of Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce, has been announced by Secretary Henry A. Wallace. Mr. McCoy has been serving as Acting Director of the Office since May 1.

A native of Richland, Indiana, Mr. McCoy originally entered the government service in 1920, with the Census Bureau, shortly afterward going into the Treasury Department, and remaining with that agency until 1928.

In that year he returned to Commerce and was assigned to the Specialties Division. Following several administrative promotions he was appointed chief of that division in 1938. Five years later he was named chief of the Industrial Economy Division.

Export Pricing Simplified

The pricing procedure for exporters has been simplified, the Office of Price Administration announced through the issuance of a Third Revised Maximum Export Price Regulation that became effective on August 23. Under the revised regulation, producer-exporters who have previously filed ceilings with OPA which have been approved may continue to use such ceilings, or at their option, may use the revised method of applying individual pricing experience in computing mark-ups, OPA stated.

Frozen Fish Stocks Held in Cold Storage Are Reported

Holdings of frozen and cured fish in cold storage on August 1, 1946, totaled 150,824,000 pounds as compared with 120,377,000 pounds on July 1, 1946, and 97,778,000 pounds on August 1, 1945, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, The following table lists, by varieties, the quantities of frozen and cured fish held in cold storage at these respective times:

Species	Aug. 1, 1945	July 1, 1946	Aug. 1, 1946
	1,000 lbs.	*1,000 lbs.*	*1,000 lbs.*
Salt-water fish:			
Bait and animal food	2,054	2,138	2,536
Bluefish	16	131	118
Butterfish	134	141	378
Cod, haddock, hake, pollock, whole	1,258	1,710	1,786
Croakers	279	580	850
Eels	30	146	147
Fillets(miscellaneous)	10,619	17,140	27,331
Flounders (including fillets)	1,654	2,307	3,033
Halibut	16,766	17,728	20,753
Herring, sea	1,327	2,508	2,019
Mackerel (Boston, including fillets)	5,468	4,264	4,569
Mullet	184	964	903
Sablefish (black cod)	1,982	2,635	3,845
Salmon (all species)	6,506	4,359	8,180
Scup (porgies)	1,134	871	946
Sea trout (weakfish, gray and spotted)	203	1,537	869
Shad and shad roe	775	1,047	728
Smelts (sea)	1,474	1,366	1,383
Swordfish	538	205	268
Whiting (including fillets)	11,506	6,286	11,607
Miscellaneous salt-water fish	8,385	10,639	12,040
Fresh-water fish:			
Bait and animal food	468	1,325	1,257
Blue pike and sauger (including fillets)	73	90	84
Catfish andbullheads	52	127	167
Chubs	424	585	640
Lake herring and cisco (including fillets)	160	1,528	1,698
Lake trout	100	611	496
Pickerel, jacks or yellow jacks	35	131	93
Sturgeon and spoonbill cat	65	220	270
Suckers	26	40	39
Tullibee	41	255	325
Yellow perch (including fillets)	11	49	96
Yellow pike (or walleye) (including fillets)	29	142	89
Whitefish	676	1,050	1,322
Miscellaneous fresh-water fish	585	1,121	1,120
Shellfish:			
Lobster tails (spiny lobster)	64	442	360
Scallops	687	708	1,344
Shrimp	2,080	6,659	7,058
Squid	1,577	2,105	1,944
Miscellaneous shellfish	1,078	2,116	2,418
Frozen fish, total	80,523	97,806	125,109
Cured fish, total	17,255	22,531	25,715
Total, all fish	97,778	120,337	150,824

Canadian Salmon Reports

In a review of Canadian press reports, *Foreign Commerce Weekly* of the U. S. Department of Commerce in its August 17 issue states that about 500,000 cases of canned salmon have been allotted from the 1946 pack for the domestic market. This represents an increase of 66-2/3 percent over the amount allotted from the 1945 pack when only 300,000 cases were retained for domestic consumption.

The report also states that this is a "cycle" year for sockeye, "the choicest variety of salmon," and that canners are hoping for an unusually large pack of probably 800,000 cases. The total pack of all varieties may amount to 1,900,000 cases.

CPA to Keep Controls on Tin for at Least a Year or More

Based on a recent survey of the world tin production, the Civilian Production Administration, in its *Monthly Report on Civilian Production* for July, 1946, foresees no removal of controls on tin this year and forecasts only a gradual tapering off of restrictions thereafter. The report of world tin production may be found on page 306 of the July 27 issue of the INFORMATION LETTER. The CPA forecast of continued restrictions of the use of tin is printed below, in part.

The removal of limitation controls on tin consumption is not foreseen for the duration of 1946, and only a gradual tapering off of restrictions will be possible thereafter, according to a recent CPA survey of tin production and stocks in the Far East. The most important use of tin is in making tinplate for the manufacture of tin cans, but considerable quantities also go into such durable goods as automobiles, refrigerators, radios and many others. Order M-43 restricts the tin content of various products and provides for the allocation of pig tin.

What were assumed in some quarters to be huge stocks of tin at Far Eastern ports on V-J Day turned out to be a combined total of only about 41,000 tons of available pig tin and tin concentrate stocks in Japan, Netherlands East Indies, Malaya, and Siam, to feed a hungry world market having a capacity to absorb that amount in two or three months. Furthermore, new tin production in 1946 will probably total less than 21,000 tons in an area which produced over 147,000 tons in 1940. By 1947 production will still equal only about half this amount and even in 1948 and 1949 will not attain the 1940 level.

Malay Pineapple Industry

According to a report in the August 17 issue of *Foreign Commerce Weekly* of the U. S. Department of Commerce plans are under way for the rehabilitation of the British Malayan pineapple industry. The Central Board of Pineaple Packers requested a loan of $1,500,000 for the cultivation of 10,000 acres of new land and $75,000 to enable canners to put their factories in order.

The 10,000 acres are said to be set aside in Johore.

Reports estimated the loan as representing 50 percent of the amount the Board considered necessary to revive the industry.

FAO Delegation Is Named

The Department of State announces that Norris E. Dodd, Under Secretary of Agriculture and Leslie A. Wheeler, Director of the USDA Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations have been named as United States delegates to the second session of the Conference on Food and Agricultural Organizations, to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, September 2. Keith Himebaugh, USDA's Director of Information will be an assistant and a large delegation of Congressional and other advisers has also been named.

Railways Are South Africa's Largest Fruit Growers

South Africa's railways unintentionally are the largest fruit growers in the Union, according to the Johannesburg *Sunday Times*.

Passengers eat fruit and throw the stones and pits through the windows with the result that these are germinated by the wind and rain. Repair gangs have to keep the track clear of saplings and the fenced-in embankments of trees whose branches grow over the line and obstruct passing trains.

Peach, apricot, plum, pear and apple trees flourish luxuriantly in the deep soil provided by the embankment. The repair gangs help shape and prune the trees. Although the natives are forbidden to trespass on railway property, ordinarily, they are not interfered with when they go to gather the fruit.

A reporter who investigated said there were literally hundreds of thousands of fruit trees growing in this way on railway property.

Department of Interior Announces Comprehensive Program To Develop the "Vast Economic Potentialities" of Alaska

The Interior Department is preparing an aggressive and comprehensive program for developing the vast economic potentialities of Alaska, Secretary J. A. Krug announced recently. Principal staff officials of the Department have studied the Alaskan problem for the last two months with the aim of encouraging new business, industry and agriculture in the Territory so as to support many times its present population of approximately 80,000.

The development program is being studied "on the spot" by Secretary Krug on his Alaskan inspection trip which began August 11. All major points in Alaska, including Point Barrow above the Arctic Circle and Nome on the western coast, are being covered in the trip. The program which Secretary Krug and others are studying and discussing with Alaskan business, labor and government leaders during August covers the following points:

1. A program of complete and reliable information about Alaska's present position and prospects for the future; early settlement of various pending questions concerning the availability of public lands, and a campaign to induce business interests to invest capital in the Territory.

2. Development of ways and means whereby the Territorial Government would fit in as a full partner in putting the whole program into effect, with a greater measure of self-government.

3. Industrial development, with the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, labor unions and trade associations being invited to cooperate; the suggested establishment of an Alaska office of the RFC equipped to make small business loans, the furnishing of business advice by the Department of Commerce, expansion of road construction, rehabilitation of the Alaska Railroad, construction of more power development projects and various other services that can be furnished by Interior Department agencies to facilitate mining and fishing industries.

4. Development of the tourist industry by such means as making public land available along the Alaska Highway, encouragement of investment by private capital in building tourist facilities, such as adequate hotel facilities at Mt. McKinley National Park and at Glacier Bay, the development of tourist facilities by the National Forest Service, and urging travel agencies to organize tours and cruises to Alaska.

5. Agricultural development through an Alaska farming program with the cooperation of the Department of Agriculture to work out the establishment of an Alaska Research Administration to advise on the types of agriculture, size of farms and marketing conditions and other features of farming and farm financing in Alaska, as well as making it possible for veterans to obtain farm loans.

6. A public works program for the expansion of such facilities as schools, hospitals, water systems, sewage disposal systems and small boat harbors.

7. Improvement of government administrative services in Alaska.

Canned Milk Statistics

Canned evaporated milk production during June is estimated at 384,700,000 pounds, a decline of 19 percent from a year earlier but 5 percent above the June, 1940-44 average, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports. Production of evaporated milk has risen each month since February. During the first half of 1946, production of evaporated milk was 1,654,100,000 pounds, 24 percent less than in the corresponding period of 1945, BAE said.

Production of canned condensed milk during June totaled 13,200,000 pounds, 15 percent below a year earlier but 27 percent above the 5-year June average. June production this year was the third largest for the month during the past 15 years. For the first 6 months of the year, production totaled 63,015,000 pounds, or 16 percent less than the first half of 1945.

Size of Letter

A 6-page LETTER is permitted this week by a fortunate relief circumstance at our printers. The 4-page limitation, explained last week, is still in effect on future issues, until further notice.

USDA Meat Board Report

Meat production under Federal inspection for the week ended August 17 totaled 260 million pounds, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This production was 17 percent below the 312 million pounds produced in the preceding week but 30 percent above the 200 million pounds recorded for the corresponding week of last year.

Distribution Council Created

Secretary Wallace has announced creation of a National Distribution Council to work with the Commerce Department to "help American industry improve its distribution capacity and efficiency."

The 29-man council is composed principally of business sales executives, described by Mr. Wallace as a "voluntary group."

The group's work will be "coordinated with that of Government" by Undersecretary of Commerce Alfred Schindler.

The council's function, Mr. Wallace said, will be "to stimulate American business to utilize every practical means whereby America's ability to distribute and consume the products of its farms, waters, mines and factories can keep abreast of America's enormously increased capacity to produce."

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